



Media Release

United States Navy

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SPAWAR Welcomes New Navy Space Systems Director *Outgoing Flag Officer Retires After Distinguished 31-Year Career*

SAN DIEGO – Navy Capt. Victor C. See assumed command of the SPAWAR Space Field Activity today in a change of command ceremony at the National Reconnaissance Office in Chantilly, Va. See assumed command from Rear Adm. Rand H. Fisher, who served as the SSFA Director since 1999. Fisher officially concluded a distinguished 31-year career in a widely-attended retirement ceremony shortly after the change of command.

Much of Fisher's focus had been to ensure that the Navy is a key player in the nation's space and reconnaissance programs.

"Rand Fisher has sensitized the rest of the SPAWAR community to the need to keep the Navy's space mission in the forefront of our thinking," said Rear Adm. Kenneth Slaght, SPAWAR Commander. "His efforts ensure the warfighter has – and will continue to have – access to the space-based information they need and that the Navy will have a say in how space-based resources are used."

While serving as SSFA Director, Fisher provided line management staffing to the NRO and coordinated naval space research, development and acquisition activities between NRO and other space programs.

As did his predecessor, See will assume many "hats" in addition to that of SSFA head. On May 5, John Young, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition, named Fisher as Program Executive Officer for Space Systems. Fisher had also been assigned as the NRO Director of Communications by Peter Teets, Under Secretary of the Air Force and Director NRO.

While guiding PEO Space Systems, Fisher provided naval space and warfare experience to develop superior and affordable space systems – such as the Ultra High Frequency Follow-On and next-generation Mobile User Objective System – in support of naval, joint and combined operations. The PEO's acquisition and systems development branch, the Communications Satellite Program Office, is located at SPAWAR headquarters. The Navy's space-based programs provide secure narrowband communications for the Department of Defense, as well as the Department of Homeland Security, the State Department and the White House.

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See, who has been selected for promotion to rear admiral and is awaiting confirmation, has extensive experience within both the NRO and SPAWAR communities. Having first reported to SPAWAR's Naval Space Technology Program in 1992, "He is an acquisition professional who has many years of successfully managing a variety of significant space-based programs," said Slaght. "He brings the best of all possible worlds to this job and I know he will excel in keeping 'space' a key ingredient in SPAWAR."

About SPAWAR, PEO C4I & Space, PEO Space Systems (<http://enterprise.spawar.navy.mil>)

Headquartered in San Diego, SPAWAR's Office of the Chief Engineer designs the architecture and standards for FORCEnet, the Navy's vision for network centric warfare and a pillar of the Chief of Naval Operations Sea Power 21 philosophy. PEO C4I & Space and PEO Space Systems acquire, align and field more than 100 space and C4I programs and projects to help make FORCEnet a reality. The three commands work together to dramatically increase current and future readiness while simultaneously implementing FORCEnet and a new era in warfighting capabilities.

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